



News flash

Land Combat Expo

Land Combat Expo 2004 will be held Sept. 28-30 at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion. The theme will be "USAREUR at War and Transforming." For information point your web browser to www.expo.hqusareur.army.mil.

Getting out the vote

The Department of Defense will hold an Armed Forces Voters Week beginning Sept. 3 to assist Soldiers and civilians to register and vote via absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

CYS fees unchanged

Child and Youth Services fees for 2004-2005 will not be increased in Europe although they will rise by an average of 3 percent Army-wide. The fee structure will remain unchanged through a waiver requested and received by Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, authorizing the transfer of funds from USAREUR to Installation Management Agency-Europe to offset the increase.

Self Service closing

The Self Service Supply Center in Baumholder will be closed through Aug. 19 and in Hanau Aug. 23-26 for inventory. Call mil 343-2743 for information.

Religious events set

The Hanau/Büdingen Catholic Women of the Chapel hold a "Women's Night Out" Aug. 22 featuring Thai food, fellowship and fun. Call Lisa Hixon at civ (06181) 5079250 for details.

Logistics Ball slated

The U.S. Army Europe logisticians will hold their annual ball Oct. 2 at the Ramstein Officers Club at Ramstein Air Force Base beginning at 5 p.m. Purchase tickets by Sept. 8 through local Logistics Ball coordinators.

Concert in Plankstadt

The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus will perform a free concert Sept. 1 at the Mehrzweckhalle in Plankstadt, which is between Heidelberg and Schwetzingen. Featured soloists will be Polish clarinet virtuoso Zenon Kitowski and trumpeter Sgt. Maj. Woody English. Call civ (06202) 80-6146 for details.

Civilian fitness time

Registration for the Civilian Fitness Program will take place Sept. 1-2 in the 414th Base Support Battalion, Sept. 13-14 in the 221st BSB, Sept. 14-16 in the 222nd BSB and Sept. 20-22 in the 284th BSB. Contact your local Health Promotion coordinator for information and assistance in filling out an application packet.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Latham departs, Williams to assume command of 104th ASG

Col. George A. Latham II (center left), outgoing 104th Area Support Group commander, is congratulated on his successful command by Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, 3rd Corps Support Command commander, during the Aug. 3 ceremony as V Corps and 1st Armored Division leaders applaud. Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III will assume command of the 104th ASG Aug. 18. Williams arrives in Germany from the Army War College, having most recently served as commander of the 787th Military Police Battalion and deputy commander of the 14th Military Police Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Reintegration draws to close Counselors help couples communicate again

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs
Office

The vast majority of 104th Area Support Group-based Soldiers have returned from Iraq, completed their week of reintegration training and gone on block leave, but social service agencies and specialists remain geared up to support them at any time.

"I think things are going very well because we've been proactive and kind of set the tone for the environment," said Monica Battle, Army Community Service officer for the 284th Base Support Battalion in Giessen. "People are happy to have the Soldiers back. Before there was more anger because of the delay; now we're going through homecomings. Everybody's happy to be back."

Despite the great relief of having Soldiers home again, issues of readjustment after 15 months of deployment to a hostile environment and separation from family and friends are part of everyday life for many Soldiers and their family members. A group of 15 stateside counselors and therapists, the third rotation of specialists to work in 104th ASG communities since June, is on the front line of dealing with issues as they arise.

"It's a little bit slow right now; a lot of the Soldiers are on block leave," said Danielle Cane, a marriage, family and child therapist from Marin County, Calif., who has worked during August in Giessen and Butzbach.

"What they say is that there is a honeymoon phase, and then they go on block leave and then when they come back issues begin

to surface."

Cane has worked with couples adjusting to the return and going through some rough patches. Complaints from spouses about returning Soldiers can sound innocuous on the surface, but communication issues are at the heart of most tensions, she said.

"They say he's home and he's messy and he leaves the knife in the peanut butter jar and he doesn't fold the laundry the right way. These are not relationship-ending issues, but what else is going on? It's often that the Soldier doesn't want to talk about what he saw or experienced in Iraq," she said.

"A couple of people have said they're having nightmares, but that's a small number," said Kris Barber, a marriage and family

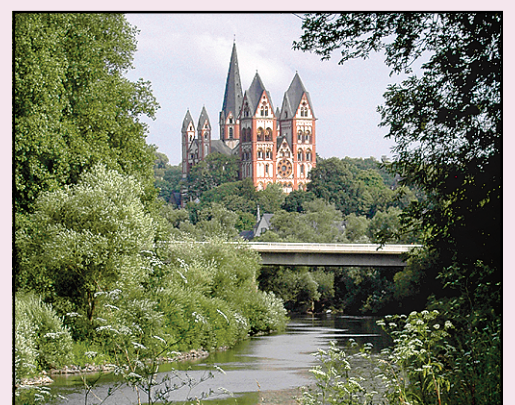
See Reintegration on page 4

Inside

Honey, I'm home
The 1st Armored Division's 4th Brigade returned to Hanau and the 1-1st Cavalry Regiment returned to a warm welcome in Büdingen. See pages 22 and 23 for the story.



Rolling on the river
Limburg on the nearby Lahn River makes a great weekend getaway for families and single Soldiers. See pages 14 and 15 for how to get there.



Commentary

Dedicated to service at Labor Day

By Gen. B.B. Bell
U.S. Army Europe commander

As the Labor Day weekend approaches, so does the third anniversary of the terrorist attack against our great nation. We cannot help but think about those tragic events and how the world has changed as we continue to fight and win the Global War on Terrorism.

For those who are not deployed and in the fight, Labor Day affords us the opportunity to take time to honor those who built our country, while remembering those who are fighting to secure our future.

Labor Day recognizes the contributions of American workers and the sacrifices they made to make the United States the premier force in the world economy. The American work force and our culture's work ethic make our country the economic model for all nations.

As we honor America's workers we need to also take time to honor those who defend it today — the Soldiers and



civilians of this command, especially those who are deployed. We sincerely thank our courageous family members who support our fighting force day in and day out during this time of war. We are honored to be associated with each and every member of this great U.S. Army Europe team.

Labor Day is also the traditional end of summer. As the season draws to a close I ask you to renew your commitment to keeping one another safe. Remain vigilant over the long weekend and aggressively manage and eliminate risks to yourself and those for whom you are responsible.

Give thanks to the people you work with. Meet with your subordinates "under the oak tree" to discuss holiday plans and ensure they make smart decisions on managing risk. Relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Thanks again to all the USAREUR Soldiers and civilians who are deployed. We miss you and look forward to your return. For those of you in garrison, I look forward to seeing each of you return to work safely after the holiday, rested and ready to continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

Second thoughts

New ziggurats for Iraq

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The Soldiers now streaming back into the 104th Area Support Group and their comrades in arms across the nation have rocked the cradle of civilization. It will take some time to see how the baby grows up.

The chaos and brutality they have witnessed since the fall of Baghdad and the daily news reports of kidnappings, beheadings and premeditated acts of mass murder they are likely to see once they return may make it hard to believe, but millennia ago Iraq was the birthplace of human society as we know it. It remains the front line of the battleground for the future of the world today.

The city states that flourished in the flood plains of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, and the ziggurats that crowned their citadels, remain the true symbols of the genesis of the urban civilization of which we are the latest inheritors and today's defenders. The pyramids of Egyptian pharaohs may have a greater hold on the modern Western imagination, but ancient Mesopotamia was the source of culture as we know it.

It was the inventive social organization pioneered in the land between the rivers that first skillfully channeled precious natural resources, the water necessary for large scale agriculture and surplus food supplies, to make it possible for cities to flourish.

We are indebted till this day to the succeeding empires of ancient Iraq, to Sumer, Akkad and Babylon, for the writing, mathematics, astronomy and notions about the nature of the deity that are the basis of our own.

It may bear repeating the obvious: These people are not barbarians.

Iraq's predicament today is analogous to its age-old quandary: How to channel the life-sustaining resources of its region to support an advanced urban civilization in a harsh, unforgiving environment. Today the resources are as much oil and a largely literate, educated citizenry with unique, innate talents as they are the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates.

The challenge of social organization remains critical. The aftermath of the Saddam Hussein overthrow is more violent than it was a year ago. The historical impetus to join the interdependent global economy and reap the rewards of prosperity is not only stronger, but closer to being achieved. Iraqis have a lot to gain from the birth of a new social order some 10 millennia after their forefathers laid the first foundations of ours.

Through fighting the forces of anachronism and training Iraqis to defend their new freedoms, through rebuilding and supplying hospitals and schools, through establishing the first tenuous bonds of trust between local leaders and a Western world that wants to support rather than exploit, American Soldiers have set the stage for a new birth of civilization in the Fertile Crescent.

Our returning Soldiers have completed the first of what promises to be an extended cycle of deployments in the years ahead to stabilize the country and the region. In the course of fulfilling their duty they have laid the foundations for the ziggurats of a new Iraq.

Sexual harassment: Not in my Army

By Sgt. Maj. Evy Lacy
V Corps Equal Opportunity Office

Sexual harassment is more prevalent in the workplace than most people realize. The majority of incidents, particularly egregious incidents, occur between supervisors and subordinates. The reason is plain: power is central.

A victim of sexual harassment is more likely to submit and less likely to complain when the harasser is a supervisor who controls the norms of the workplace. This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Leaders at all levels have a responsibility to preserve dignity and respect.

There are two kinds of sexual harassment: "quid pro quo" and "hostile environment." Quid pro quo, a Latin term meaning "this for that," occurs when a boss offers benefits or threatens to change working conditions based on an employee's response to demands for sexual favors.

Hostile environment occurs when physical, verbal or visual sexual harassment is severe or pervasive enough to

create a hostile or abusive work environment. This type of harassment does not require a loss or threat of losing a job or the promise of benefits. Comments about an employee's body, sexual remarks, the display of pictures of a sexually suggestive nature — all create a hostile environment.

Commanders at all levels are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for all employees. They must take action to prevent sexual harassment in their units.

Families have entrusted the armed forces their most precious assets — their sons and daughters. It is the responsibility of leaders at all levels to care for them and ensure they are treated properly. If we don't live up to that trust we not only fail the armed forces, we fail the American people.

The V Corps Equal Opportunity Office is committed to educating and training leaders and Soldiers on the prevention of sexual harassment. For information on prevention of sexual harassment training call me or Maj. John Sirmon at mil 370-5768/5763.

Letter to the editor

To the editor,

This weekend we went to Playmobil. On the ground, our 7-year-old friend found a shiny €2 coin — what a find. She immediately decided to buy ice cream for all four kids.

In contrast on Tuesday, July 27, while on Wiesbaden Army Airfield to go to the library and run errands, I left my bag containing everything I needed for my two young children and myself sitting on the ground beside my car.

I drove away, but quickly realized my mistake and returned less than 10 minutes later. It was gone, and everyone I asked told me that I would never see it again.

In that bag were important things to me: a phone for emergencies since my husband was away, my ID and driver's license, money, credit cards and checks. There were also diapers, snacks, my daughter's favorite sunglasses, library books and videos.

The person who "found" my bag could have easily contacted me or simply returned it to the library, the gym or

the Military Police. Instead they chose to steal it.

For the next four hours my small children and I waited in lines — at the MP station, the ID office, the bank and the driver's license office. We had no money, no phone numbers, no diapers, no food — nothing.

I was told by everyone I encountered that such a lack of integrity was to be expected. After all, where did I think I lived? The moon? I did not want to believe this. These are 17- and 18-year-olds (and others) who choose to risk their lives for their country or so I thought. That's a lot tougher than not stealing someone else's belongings.

But they were right. No one has turned in the bag. We have replaced everything by now except my belief in the Soldiers at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

I understand that not everyone on WAAF lacks integrity, that not everyone stole my bag and that not everyone is a Soldier. But every time I see a Soldier at WAAF all I can think is, "You might be the one." So to that one, thanks for destroying my belief in the U.S. military.

Sincerely,
Gem Nason

Herald Union

The Herald Union is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the 104th Area Support Group. Contents of the Herald Union are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. This is a biweekly publication printed by The Stars and Stripes in Griesheim, Germany. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 13,000 copies. For advertising rates contact Fred Schneider at civ (06155) 601-295, mil 349-8295 or schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

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News and features

Taking care of business in Baghdad

Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston presents a coin of excellence for outstanding performance to Spc. Ian Parker of 127th Military Police Company during a visit to Baghdad Aug. 12. The 127th MPs battled "Mahdi army" gunmen Aug. 6 in the Al-Shoula section of the city after being ambushed. The MPs killed over a dozen gunmen and returned to their base with no injuries.

Photo by 1st Lt. Erik S. Archer



News flash

Story correction

In last week's *Herald Union* article on traveling to Italy the Euro sign was incorrectly set as a "2" in regards to the price of flights. The prices should have been listed as Euro 9.90 per flight or about Euro 72 per person after taxes and other fees.

MWR stalwart honored

James P. Ehrenreich was awarded the prestigious Order of the White Plume July 24 in recognition of a distinguished, 43-year career in Army recreation programs. The White Plume is the highest form of recognition awarded by Morale, Welfare and Recreation to outstanding employees.



Maynulet hearing to resume

An Article 32 hearing for Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet, Company A, 2-37th Armor, will resume in Hanau Sept. 8. Maynulet is charged with murder and dereliction of duty in connection with the death of an Iraqi civilian May 21 in Kufa, Iraq.

Rüsselsheim to dedicate memorial to flyers

*"A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to
build up."*

—Ecclesiastes 3:3

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs
Office

A memorial will be unveiled in Rüsselsheim Aug. 26 to mark the site where six American flyers were murdered by a mob 60 years ago.

On Aug. 24, 1944 the crew of an American B-24 Liberator was shot down over Hanover following a bombing run. One of its captured crew was taken to a hospital with severe injuries and the other eight were taken by train to a prisoner camp at Oberursel north of Frankfurt. Their path led them through Rüsselsheim, where British air attacks the previous night had killed 198 people, among them 177 forced laborers, and destroyed substantial sections of the town.

Because of damage to the rail line, the American prisoners and their Luftwaffe guards left the train at Rüsselsheim to transit the town on foot to reach a station east of the town. As they passed the market square they drew the attention and ire of residents.

'Kill them'

"These are the terror airmen who last night destroyed our houses and murdered our children. Kill them," shouted women in the crowd, according to historical reconstructions of the event. The eight airmen were driven along local streets while the growing crowd verbally abused them and attacked them with stones, sticks and debris. The crowd swelled to over 100 including residents, soldiers and workers from the nearby Opelwerk factory.

The Americans were cornered in front of a wall on Grabenstrasse where they were beaten into unconsciousness with rubble

and railroad ties. A Nazi official took a small caliber revolver and shot six of the unconscious Americans in the head. Their bodies were piled on a wagon to be taken to the Waldfriedhof, a cemetery on the edge of town. They were beaten again by people in the crowd who thought some of them might be living.

Unbeknownst to their tormentors, two of the flyers miraculously survived the ordeal. The death wagon they were riding was abandoned at the sounding of an air raid alarm and the two, Sidney Brown and William Adams, managed to slip away. They were captured four days later and interred as prisoners of war.

When the American military occupied Rüsselsheim in the spring of 1945, the fate and final resting place of the six flyers was disclosed, and a series of trials ensued. Charges were prepared against 11 alleged conspirators though many more participated. Testimony was taken from 21 eyewitnesses. One was found not guilty; three were found guilty and sentenced to hard labor; seven were found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Over the next several years two more individuals were tried. One was hanged; one was freed on a legal technicality. Two women sentenced to hang had their sentences commuted to imprisonment. In the 1950s most of those in jail were quietly released and returned to Rüsselsheim. The wall on Grabenstrasse was taken down in the 1980s and no trace of the events remained, except in the unquiet consciences of its residents.

"Words are not sufficient to understand it. A real understanding necessarily remains limited," said Dagmar Eichhorn, one of the Rüsselsheimers behind the movement to commemorate the events of 1944 and work toward healing the 60-year-old wounds. "If we want to prevent similar events from happening in the future, we need memories that facilitate the moments of confessions, admissions or avowals concerning the injustice that happened."

There are residents of the city whose parents or grandparents were among the hanged, as there are the children and grandchildren of others who may have participated in the murders, but suffered no consequences. Will this commemoration help them understand and come to terms with the events of the war and their consequences?



Photo by Dagmar Eichhorn

The faces of the eight American airmen attacked in Rüsselsheim will be part of the memorial on Grabenstrasse.

"I hope so. Three or four of the relatives of the murderers, they are invited too and I hope they will be there," said Eichhorn. Like much left unspoken in the intervening decades, the names of the relatives are unmentioned.

"We don't tell the names," said Eichhorn. "It was a kind of trauma for this whole city because there were plenty of people not on trial. You see this in all of Germany — the story is not spoken." The silence is one approach to resolving the horror of the past, a kind of denial, she said.

"They're afraid. They tried to forget because it was too hard for them. That happened that long time ago. The city government covered it up and didn't want to talk about it," she said.

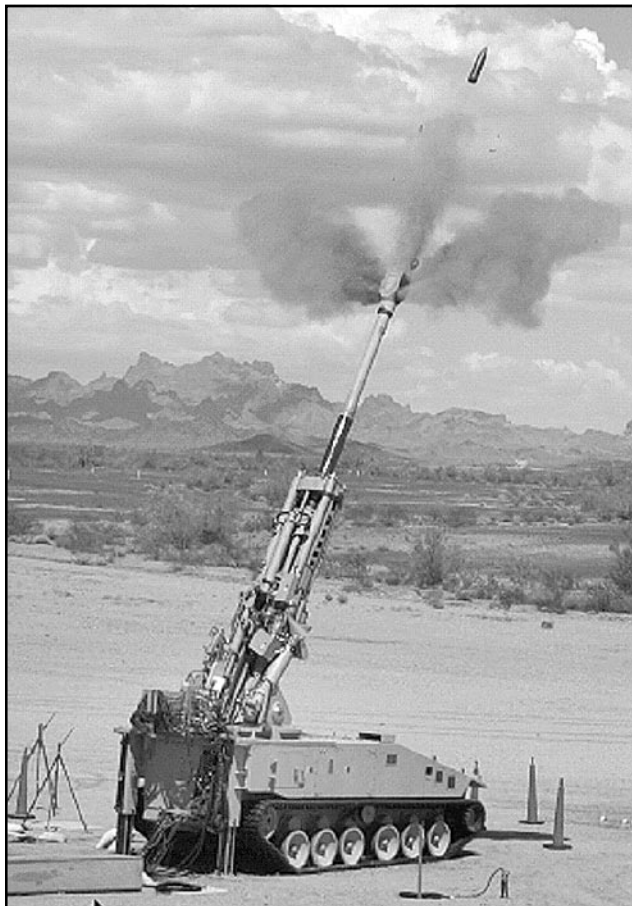
Thanks to the efforts of an American academic and individual residents the town is coming belatedly to some kind of public recognition of the events of Aug. 26, 1944.

The city tried to stop the publication of the historical investigation led by August Nigro of Kutztown University in Bucks County, Pa., whose 2000 book, "Wolfsangel — A German City on Trial, 1945-1948," brought the incident and its aftermath back into the spotlight, said Eichhorn. But now it is helping pay for the memorial, which incorporates stones from the original wall on Grabenstrasse and will bear the likenesses of the young American airmen who were beaten and died there.

A representative of the American Consulate in Frankfurt will attend the ceremony, which will take place Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Gene Brown, the one surviving American airman, now in his late 70s, is expected to attend as well, said Eichhorn. The ceremony will take place at the site of the murders in the Grabenstrasse. The public is welcome to attend.

Fielding future systems speeds up

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service



A Non-Line of Sight Cannon is test fired in Arizona.

The Army plans to accelerate fielding some of 18 proposed Future Combat Systems and “spiral” their development, said Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. “The Army evolves by putting future ideas forward as they become available,” Yakovac said.

Among FCSs under consideration are armed robotic vehicles, unattended ground sensors and unattended munitions. Army leaders also plan to field an automation network known as the System of Systems Common Operating Environment sooner and to more of the force, said Yakovac.

“We are basically building the Internet you use every day and moving it into battle space,” Yakovac said. Making the network secure, yet accessible to all Soldiers and integrated with all systems, will be a major challenge, he said.

FCS technology will become part of the brigade-sized Units of Action the Army is establishing, said Brig. Gen. Charles Cartwright, program manager for the FCS UAs. One UA will be selected as an experimental unit to test new FCS technology in 2008, and a projected 32 of the 43 UAs will be fielded with some FCS capabilities by 2014, he said.

Over the life of the FCS program, which is expected to run past 2025, 15 selected UAs will become FCS UAs, Cartwright said. They will be fielded with all 18 of the FCSs, affording them extraordinary capabilities, he said.

Other modular UAs will receive the SOSCOE network and some FCSs. For instance the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, a pod of missiles that can be aimed and fired from

miles away will be fielded widely.

Unmanned sensors and robotic vehicles are also intended for wide dissemination, officials said. A small unmanned robotic vehicle is already being used in Iraq and Afghanistan to detect mines.

A demonstration version of the Non-Line of Sight Cannon, is being tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. It has a 155-mm weapon and weighs less than 24 tons. It is light, but can handle recoil, said officials. The vehicle currently runs on rubber tracks, but the decision has not yet been made whether it will be tracked or wheeled. “We’re looking to combine the best of both in these vehicles,” Yakovac said.

All manned vehicles will receive active protective systems as a result of lessons learned in Iraq. “In a 360-degree fight, everything needs protection,” Yakovac said.

“A lot of capability can be brought to a vehicle by software,” said Yakovac, noting that FCS vehicles will have digital command and control, automatic target acquisition, the Joint Tactical Radio System, and the Warfighter Information System-Tactical among other systems.

While officials plan to field the first FCS vehicles in 2008 and spiral the development to most of the Army by 2025, the M-1 Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other current weapons systems will remain important for years into the future, said Lt. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, Army deputy chief of staff for programs, G8.

In addition to the SOSCOE and the 18 FCSs, there will be one indispensable “node in the network,” Yakovac said. “The guy in the middle is the Soldier, and if we don’t do all that we can to make his life better, then we have failed.”

Reintegration

Continued from page 1

therapist from Phoenix, Ariz., who worked mostly with couples in Wiesbaden in Baumholder in July. “Many of them are having trouble sleeping, getting used to not being always on alert. They’re not on guard all the time. Also they’re not as needed or feel as needed as they did downrange — their jobs may not seem as important now that they’re back.”

“Some of the things they saw and experienced in Iraq, they don’t feel comfortable talking about except with their buddies,” said Mary Hammes, a marriage and family therapist from Palo Alto, Calif., who has been seeing couples in Baumholder.

“They don’t want to burden them,” said Cane. “A lot of men have trouble talking about their feelings. It’s hard to get them to talk. The post-traumatic stress disorder with Soldiers can take anywhere from now to over the next three or four months — it can get repressed and come out later.”

That can leave wives feeling isolated and wondering what to do. “They’re dying for a companion. They’re just dying for someone to talk to,” said Cane.

“I think people have to take time to adjust,” said Battle. “It’s going to take some time to adjust, to get back to normal. I’m very positive about this because we have been proactive in preparing the Soldiers and family members about what to expect — and that’s the key. The 104th ASG has been proactive getting the counselors here and providing training for the Soldiers and spouses. I think we’re on the right track.”

Still issues remain. “A lot of the women, for 15 months they were independent and



Photo by Midori VanBrunt

Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th Base Support Battalion commander, addresses returning Soldiers during reintegration briefings in Hanau. Counselors are available for crisis intervention for individuals and couples throughout the process and beyond.

didn’t have to answer to anybody, and they kind of liked that,” said Hammes. “Of course there were things they didn’t like, but things have changed anyway. They’re both different so they’re kind of renegotiating the rules here.”

Behavioral problems and perceptions of behavior can also cause anger and friction between husbands and wives, said counselors. “There’s a lot of mistrust among the military,” said Cane. “Most married people aren’t apart for 15 months or longer at a time. There’s a lot of infidelity, on both sides. It’s happening on both sides. It’s a long time to

be separated.”

That’s on top of the usual strains that couples, especially young couples, encounter in making marriages work, she said.

“I’ve just been struck by how young many of them are. They’re so young they didn’t have a good base to the marriage to start with. They come back and they don’t know each other. That’s what I’m seeing a lot. I’m doing a lot of work getting couples to know one another again,” said Cane.

“Between age 19 and say 29 is just a time of tremendous growth and development, and so many young marriages don’t make it any-

way, and then you add the stress in a crucial, developmental phase — it makes it tough for these young couples.”

The key to bridging gaps is to talk about the issues and feelings behind them, said the counselors. They remain on call to intervene in crises at anytime and can refer clients to Social Work Services for therapy if it is appropriate.

“The people I’m working with are responding positively,” said Cane. “We’re giving them concrete tools to work with, the ones who are talking.”

“It’s a good thing to talk with somebody when you get back, to process through it, express yourself. Don’t pretend like it’s not happening,” said Barber.

Unless they discover indications of child abuse, spouse abuse, sexual abuse or potential harm to self or to others, counselors take no notes and maintain complete confidentiality. “Anything else, the command officers don’t find out about it,” said Cane.

Support services are available through local ACS offices and will likely continue past the period of block leave. Details of a fourth rotation of stateside counselors are being worked out, said Michael Andrews, ACS director for the 104th ASG.

“The counselors have been very, very helpful. Some of them have been here before and that’s a plus for us. They’ve worked with some of the spouses before so they know their faces and they’re more open and willing to talk to them,” said Battle.

“They can use all the help they can get,” said Cane. “I think it’s great the Army did this. It’s pretty amazing that they put so much money, energy and time into doing this.”

Check advisories before traveling abroad

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

One of the benefits of being stationed in Germany is the ease of traveling throughout Europe. But no matter where or when you plan on traveling, be sure to check out current travel advisories and get a travel briefing.

"You would be amazed at some of the little things that you'd never think of that could get you into trouble," said Bob Kentner, 221st Base Support Battalion information security specialist.

Kentner provides travel briefings and country specific information to all Soldiers, civilians and family members wishing to travel abroad. There are many benefits from the information received in the travel briefing such as finding out if there are any travel advisories for the country you are traveling to, knowing the current political climate, laws unique to the country and locations and phone numbers to embassies and consulates.

"It's not like your typical boring travel briefing. Many people have been impressed with the amount of information they receive before traveling," said Kentner.

For instance a prison sentence can be handed down if a person negatively speaks about the Turkish government while in Turkey. Sea turtle products such as tortoise shell jewelry and sea turtle oil cosmetic products are widely available in the Caribbean, but will be confiscated if you try to leave the country with any sea turtle product. Heavy fines can also be charged by customs officials.

"When traveling to certain places there are just some things that everyone wants to experience. As the saying goes, when in Rome do as the Romans do, but travelers need to be wary and cautious in unfamiliar cultures," Kentner said.

"As the saying goes, when in Rome do as the Romans do, but travelers need to be wary and cautious in unfamiliar cultures."

For example many travelers consider drinking ouzo or throwing plates up against a wall and breaking them to be part of an authentic Greek experience. But what they don't know is that there is a fee for each plate or glass broken.

"It's not like you can just keep throwing dinner plates against the wall like you see in the movies — they actually charge you for that," said Connie Parker, former marketing specialist for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. As for the ouzo —

you may end up with more than you bargained for.

"In both Greece and Turkey ouzo can be served laced with barbiturates," Kentner said. Unknowing travelers could end up testing positive on a urinalysis upon their return home and find themselves in more trouble all because they were unaware.

The ability to travel abroad while stationed here can be enjoyable if planned accordingly. Travelers must also be aware that several countries have a state department

travel warning and require approval prior to travel. These countries include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Israel, Haiti, Columbia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Africa, Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Sudan. American citizens are also reminded that travel to Cuba and North Korea is against the law.

"It's great to be able to travel. I encourage everyone to go out and explore the world, but just check with your security office or S-2 before you depart," Kentner said.

Know before you go. Contact your unit's information security specialist when preparing to travel or ask for a travel briefing — you'd be surprised at what you can learn.

You can also get more information by viewing the 221st BSB defensive travel briefing at www.wiesbaden.army.mil/S3/SecurityHomePage.htm or call mil 337-6456, civ (0611) 705-6456.



Travel tips

When traveling to other countries keep in mind that the laws are different than in the United States.

✓ In France and French territories, if you are detained you are considered guilty until you can prove you're innocent.

✓ In Thailand it is illegal to speak ill of the king, royal family or to purposely destroy or deface currency with the king's likeness on it.

✓ In Russia the use of global positioning systems are subject to special rules. Importing and use of a GPS system without prior authorization can be deemed as a threat to their national security with a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

✓ In Morocco it is illegal to discuss Christianity with a Muslim.

✓ In Madrid, Mallorca and Ibiza it is against the law to drink alcohol on the street. Alcohol can only be consumed in registered cafes or bars.

✓ In Saudi Arabia it is illegal to wear a cross or carry a Bible in public.

✓ In China most dinnerware is not properly glazed and can cause poisoning. Dinnerware purchased in China should be thoroughly checked for its safety or only used for decoration (dinnerware shipped to the United States is inspected by the Food and Drug Administration and deemed safe).

✓ In Thailand police periodically raid bars and nightclubs and in doing so require all patrons to submit to a urine test for drug testing. Anyone refusing the test is automatically jailed.

✓ In the Maldives it is illegal to import alcohol.